

March 6, 2024

# the SPIRE



  
First Baptist Church  
columbia



## Holy Week @ FIRST BAPTIST

### Good Friday - Friday, March 29

On this Holy day, we are paying close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus' final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to messing up, fighting, denying, leaving, and seeking safety for himself. But aren't we all?

On Friday, March 29, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to join us for our Good Friday Service, where we will reflect on Jesus' final days and lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love. This service will be more experiential and therefore will only be available in person. For those who are unable to attend, but would like to observe Good Friday, a take-home liturgy will be made available.

### Easter Sunday - March 31

Although we are still in the throes of Lent, Easter is coming! Join us, on Sunday, March 31 at 9:15 am Awakening Worship and 11:15 am Traditional worship as we celebrate the risen Christ.

During the Spiritual Formation Hour, we will have pastries and coffee to share, and if the weather is nice, we will even have some tables out on the front lawn. Small groups will still gather, and you are welcome to bring your treats there! We look forward to singing many Alleluias as we celebrate the resurrection!



*Wandering Heart*  
"And I hope"



# Word from the Pastor



## *Word from Pastor Greg*

### **The Gift of Hospitality**

As of the writing of this post, Priscilla and I have only been with you for two weeks; but, if this brief experience has told us anything, it's that we're lucky to have found our way to Columbia, First Baptist. Thank you for your warm welcome!

I hope you don't take your hospitality for granted. It might come to you as naturally as breathing air, but that's only because you've allowed the Spirit of love to shape you. Much of the world has opted for a wariness of strangers. Predisposed toward categories of "us" and "them," it builds walls more readily than bridges. It keeps its relationship circles well-defined in categories of sameness and familiarity. It burdens outsiders with figuring out how to fit in.

Not you! You have greeted us with open arms, and this seems to be one of your defining characteristics. I would even say it's part of the congregation's DNA, but that wouldn't capture the full truth. A grace like yours is born of the Spirit, yes; but it only matures through habits of kindness and compassion. Why would anyone think otherwise? We know that world-class athletes, however gifted, devote themselves to training in order to hone their skills, harness their strength, and build their endurance. Why would it be any different when it comes to the spirit of hospitality? By practicing hospitality, we cooperate with the grace of God until generosity of heart becomes "second nature."

Your hospitality clearly has become second nature. You have found countless ways to prove the truth of church signs that read "All Are Welcome." You don't even wait for a knock on the door to let people in. You find your way out the door and into relationships with those hungry for bread and more.

Priscilla and I now add our energies to your winsome way of life. Having been welcomed into your fellowship, we embrace this value of yours and join you in extending it to others. We do so knowing it's contagious. In a world sick with division and loneliness, we - together - get to spread a healthy virus, the virus of unconditional, boundary-less love!

*-Pastor Greg Hunt*





## Search Committee Update

### First Baptist Search Committee Update

Following a church-wide business meeting on March 3, the following seven people were voted as the 7 at-large members of the Pastor Search Committee: Lexie Arnold, Jen Boeckman, David Chang, Donna Ostercamp, Jason Tratchel, Mark Thomas, and Julie Walker. They join the 7 team representatives: Dolores Shearon (Congregational Care Team), Beth Marchbanks (Teaching Team), Jon Ludwig (Missions Team), Noah Hartsfield (Telling Team), Mychel Varner (Racial Justice and Inclusion Team), and Charles Hunter (Administration Team). We ask for you to pray for this committee as they follow the Spirit's guidance in the search for our next Senior Pastor.

### Ordination of Caleb Cooke Sunday, March 24 at 5:00 pm

It is with great excitement that we announce the Ordination of Caleb Cooke. All are invited to the ordination service on Sunday, March 24, at 5 pm. Last November, Caleb was recommended by the Missions Team to the Church Council to be a candidate for ordination. The ordination council talked with Caleb about his dreams for ministry, his call to the pastorate, and his beliefs about God and the church. Following their conversation, the ordination council unanimously voted to ordain Caleb to the Christian Ministry.

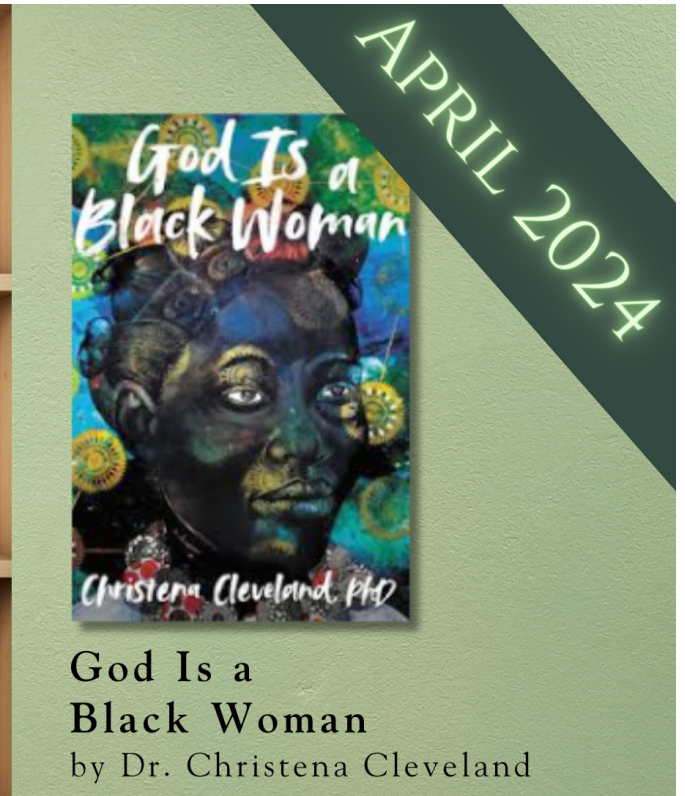
We are excited to walk with Caleb in the next step of his residency and commit to praying for and supporting him as he continues to minister to our community and beyond!

If you are unable to attend, congratulatory cards are welcomed!





# Life of the Church



## First Baptist Book Club

After a short hiatus, First Baptist Book Club will be returning soon! Led by Pastoral Resident Caleb Cooke, the First Baptist Book Club will seek to gain insight into the Christian experience from a variety of powerful voices. The first book on the docket is *God Is a Black Woman* by Dr. Christena Cleveland. This book recounts Dr. Cleveland's journey to liberate her identity and faith from the "whitemalegod" and to uncover what she calls the "Sacred Black Feminine," i.e., the Black Female God who embodies liberation, healing, and hope. If you are interested, please email Caleb at [ccooke@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:ccooke@fbc-columbia.org). First Baptist Book Club participants are asked to purchase the book independently.

## ForColumbia 2024

First Baptist is excited to announce that we will be partnering with ForColumbia again this year! ForColumbia was founded in 2015 to bring Christians together to freely share the love of God by serving our community, side-by-side. They do this by organizing volunteers from churches throughout mid-Missouri to serve individuals, non-profit organizations, and other public venues in an annual city-wide day of service.



ForColumbia will be April 27 from 9am to 2pm. If this is not your first time serving with us, note, there are a couple of changes to this year's ForColumbia. Rather than having two work slots, the day of service will go from 9am to 2pm. Childcare will be provided the entire time. More information will be coming soon on the projects in which First Baptist will be directly involved. Registration opens March 10!





## Welcome New Member Rachel Proffitt!



“—

Hi! I'm Rachel Proffitt and I've been coming to First Baptist with my two kids, Benjamin (Ben) and Margot, since the spring of last year. I'm originally from New York and have lived coast to coast and settled in the Midwest. I am an occupational therapist by clinical training and faculty at the University of Missouri. I love writing grants and papers so I spend most of my days doing just that as well as educating the next generation of OT practitioners. In my free time (what's that?), I love reading, running, being outside, and spending time with friends and family. I have two cats that love to bring us presents but they still curl up on my lap. I have loved getting to know so many wonderful people and I look forward to meeting more!





## Notes from our CHILDCARE DIRECTOR

Hello from the First Baptist Nursery!

We greatly enjoy all the children who join us each week. For the safety of our children, parents check in on our computerized system and both a parent and the child receive a name tag to wear. These name tags not only remind us of the child's name if they are new, but also provide the contact information for their parents and if the child has any allergies. This has been a great addition for our ministry.

Our staff always interact with and play with the children. We keep a small ratio between staff and children so we can give individual or small group attention to each kid who enters our doors. Pictured are Emily and Margo, enjoying playing on the floor with some new My Little Pony characters.

Kids also have the option for some independent play, under supervision, a popular item right now is our new "Ice Cream Serving Set". All the children have had fun with the play cones, bowls and spoons, scoops of ice cream, and even a play bottle of sprinkles!

We thank our families for entrusting the care of their precious children to us, and we invite each of you to stop in and say hi on your way in or after service!

-Nellene Martin, Childcare Director



March 30  
10 am

FIRST KIDS

Easter  
Egg  
Hunt

## First Kids Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30 at 10 am

Join us Saturday, March 30 at 10 am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Kids are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for Easter snacks and crafts before our egg hunt takes place at 10:30 am. Kids will be divided into groups for age-specific hunts. Following the egg hunts, families are invited to participate in lawn games and 9 square.



# First Baptist Fun



## *First Baptist Plant Exchange*

### **First Baptist Plant Exchange - April 2024**

The church will be having a plant exchange in April for First Baptist family and friends! Plan ahead by thinking about plants, cuttings, and seedlings you could bring to share. Also, if you have some extra small nursery pots taking up space, please bring them to the office, as we always are in need of them for church plantings. For more information about the plant exchange, contact Brenda Rice at [brice@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:brice@fbc-columbia.org).

## **FIRST BAPTIST GAME NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22 @ 6PM**



### **First Baptist Game Night - Friday, March 22 at 6:00 pm**

Calling all board game enthusiasts! Join us each month at 6:00 pm in the parlor for our Board Games Night. Whether you're a strategic mastermind or a casual player, this event is for you! Come and indulge in an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. Grab your favorite board game and challenge your friends to a thrilling match. From classic favorites to modern gems, there will be a wide variety of games available for all tastes and skill levels.

**Ministerial Staff:**

**Dr. Greg Hunt**, Interim Senior Pastor  
[ghunt@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:ghunt@fbc-columbia.org)  
**Brittany McDonald Null**, Pastor of Families &  
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**Caleb Cooke**, Pastoral Resident  
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**Music Staff:**

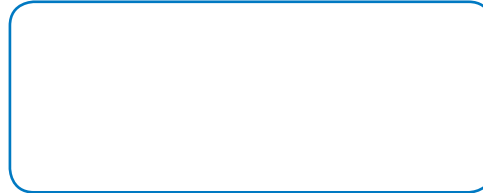
**Colleen Ostercamp**, Organist  
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**Shelby Myers**, Awakening Praise Band Director  
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**Jonathan Ray**, Music Director-Traditional  
[jray@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:jray@fbc-columbia.org)

**Support Staff:**

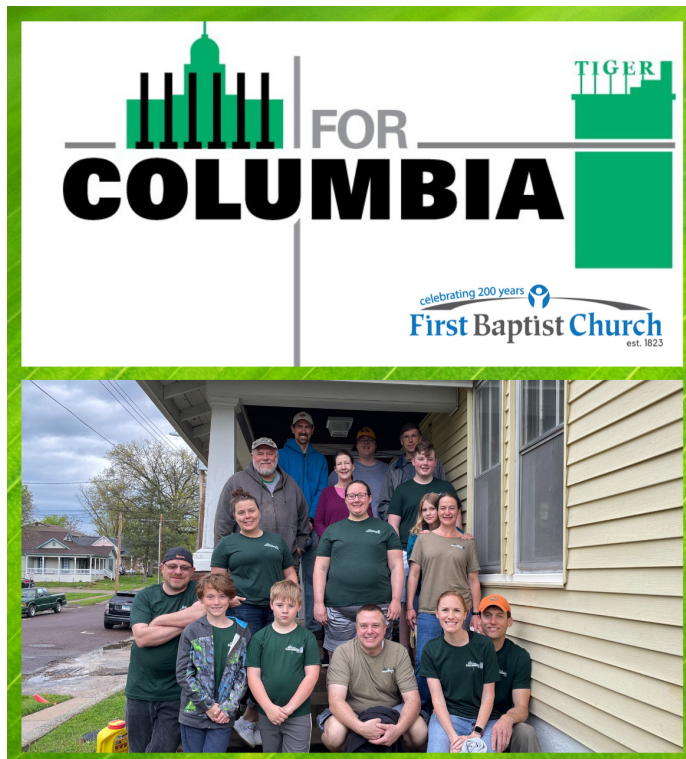
**Susan Goudie**, Administrative Assistant  
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**Brenda Rice**, Administrative Assistant for Web,  
Facilities and Arts,  
[brice@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:brice@fbc-columbia.org)  
**Mike Ide**, Custodian  
**Nellene Martin**, Childcare Director

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**ForColumbia - April 2024**  
Registration opens March 10!  
For more info, see page 4

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